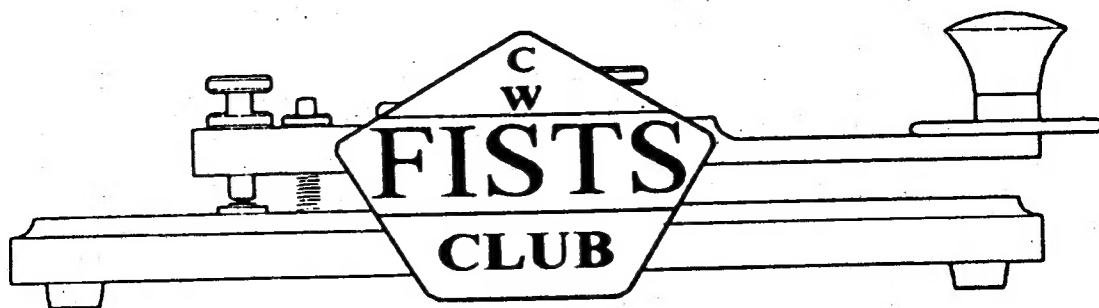


# The Keynote

Newsletter of FISTS CW Club

The active chapter of the International Morse Preservation Society

**“Accuracy Transcends Speed”**



**Our Goals:**

**Further the use of Morse code**

**Engender friendships among members**

**Encourage newcomers to use Morse code**

**• “When You’ve Worked A FISTS, You’ve Worked A Friend”**

## HOW DO I...?

Info on How to do just about anything related to FISTS

**HOW DO I GET AN APPLICATION?** You can download a North American membership application or an application for DX on the FISTS web page <http://www.fists.org>. Information and an application can be mailed to you. Send a message Joe Pardue, WSOS (wsos@arrl.net) with your name, call sign, and postal address, or mail the request to Joe at 29 Melrose Dr., Marrero, LA 70072-3055

**HOW DO I JOIN?** Membership is open to all interested in Morse code, irrespective of their speed and ability. Subscriptions are \$15.00/year; Under 17 = FREE; College students = \$10. Family members may join FISTS at no extra charge-only one newsletter is mailed per household. Send to FISTS, P. O. Box 47, Hadley, MI 48440 or via PAYPAL <http://www.paypal.com> (N.America only). Address your PAYPAL payment to [FISTS@TIR.COM](mailto:FISTS@TIR.COM)

**NOTE:** Checks can take 6-8 weeks to clear from the day received. Nancy processes them, updating the database, then takes them to the bookkeeper. The bookkeeper enters them into the "official books", then takes them to the bank. Depending on schedules that month, it can take 6-8 weeks. **NOTE: Applications are processed as they come in, not held until checks clear - it doesn't take 8 weeks to get your number, it just may take that long for your check to clear**

**WHERE DO I MAIL MY APPLICATION?** North American applications are to be mailed to Nancy, WZ8C at P. O. Box 47, Hadley, MI 48440-0047. "FISTS Down Under" applications are to be mailed to Ralph Sutton, ZL2AOH at 12C Herbert Gardens, 186 The Terrace, Wellington 6001, New Zealand All other applications are to be mailed to Geo, G3ZQS at 119 Cemetery Rd, Darwen Lancs, BB3 2LZ.

**HOW DO I GET A NUMBER FOR MY LOCAL CLUB?** Clubs with FCC call signs may be assigned a FISTS number at no charge providing there is at least one FISTS member in good standing in the local club. These clubs are not legally affiliated with FISTS, nor does FISTS have anything to do with how the club is run, etc. It just means the club has a FISTS number and is worth three points toward awards. If the club wants a newsletter, there is a \$15 a year charge.

**HOW DO I KNOW WHEN TO RENEW?** Your renewal date is on your mailing label - please look at it! ONE renewal postcard is mailed out when your renewal time is near. If you've sent in your renewal but get a reminder postcard within a few weeks, please don't be concerned, the card probably crossed with your renewal.

**HOW DO I RENEW?** Send \$15/year or \$10/year for college students (under 17 and family members are free) to FISTS, P. O. Box 47, Hadley, MI 48440. or to Paypal using the email address [fists@tir.com](mailto:fists@tir.com). Put RENEWAL in the comments section.

**HOW DO I UPDATE MY ADDRESS or CALL SIGN ON THE FISTS DATABASE?** Send corrections or changes to Nancy Kott, WZ8C, at FISTS, P. O. Box 47, Hadley, MI 48440. Please send labels with your corrections to the FISTS QSL Bureau so the bureau workers don't have to change all your SASEs by hand.

**HOW DO I GET AN UP-TO-DATE MEMBER LIST?** Send a SASE with \$2.00 (US) to Ed N7CFA 2628 Lilac Street, Longview, WA 98632. Lists are available on the FISTS Web page.

**HOW DO I GET ON THE FISTS EMAIL LIST?** For periodic Email updates send your Email address, call sign and FISTS number to Kathi Hilton, [fistelst@comcast.net](mailto:fistelst@comcast.net). If you put your email address on your application, it is automatically added to the list. Due to potential spam problems, the list is NOT given out to the membership and is NOT published on the web page. It is ONLY used to notify you of FISTS items of interest. If you want people to know your e-mail address, we recommend you include it in your listing on QRZ.com or Buckmaster lookup service.

**HOW DO I ORDER CLUB SUPPLIES?** Irene W08E - for more info - [ikott@compuserve.com](mailto:ikott@compuserve.com) - 44609 N. Bunker Hill Dr., Clinton Twp, MI 48038 is our Supply Manager. Our supplies are sold as close to cost as possible. \*\*Metallic Gold logo stickers, 200 for \$3.50 \*\*I "red heart graphic" CW Stickers, 3/4 inch round stickers, \$3.50 for 200 \*\*\*I Support KNOW Code" buttons for .50 \*\*Blue enamel cloisonne/gold metal "FISTS CW CLUB" logo pin, with tie-tack type pin back 1" x 1 1/8" octagon \$1.50 \*\*White enamel cloisonne pin "I (red heart graphic) CW" "FISTS CW CLUB" along edge. 3/4" diameter circle tie-tack type pin on back \$1.50 \*\*Embroidered Cloth patch of our key logo. \$1.00 each. Can be sewn or ironed on. \*\*\*\*\*Please make checks out to FISTS\*\*\*\*\*ALL PRICES INCLUDE POSTAGE. \*\*\*\*\*  
\*\*\*\*\*PLEASE DO NOT ADD POSTAGE TO YOUR TOTAL\*\*\*\*\* \*\*\*\*\*PAYPAL TO [FISTS@TIR.COM](mailto:FISTS@TIR.COM)\*\*\*\*\*

**HOW DO I GET FISTS SHIRTS?** Show the world that you are proud to be a KNOW CODE Ham by wearing an "I'm PROUD to be a KNOW CODE Ham" T-shirt and sweatshirt. or a FISTS logo polo shirt. The front of the t-shirts and sweatshirts are printed in silver with "I'M PROUD TO BE A KNOW CODE HAM" and the backs of the shirts are printed in light blue with the FISTS key logo graphic and "Join the Code Crusade <http://www.fists.org> "

The T-shirts are available in two solid colors: black or royal blue (a medium blue, not navy)

Sweatshirts are gray with royal blue printing on the front and back.

The polo/golf shirts are sky blue with the FISTS key tastefully EMBROIDERED on the top left side. They are short sleeved and have a knit collar and a couple buttons at the neck.

Sizes are small, medium, large, XL, XXL, and XXXL. All shirts are 50/50 blend. The T's are "Best" Fruit of the Loom. Sweats are 5.8 oz Jerzee and Polos are Fruit of the Loom. Price are:

T-shirts = \$5.00 PLUS POSTAGE Sweats = \$10.00 PLUS POSTAGE Polos = \$14.00 PLUS POSTAGE

To figure postage for USA addresses:

First (or only) T-shirt or polo shirt, add \$2.50 Additional T-shirts or polo shirts, add another \$1.00 each (the t's and polos weigh the same. \$4. for first sweatshirt and \$2 for each additional garment

For example:

If you order a blue t-shirt, a black t-shirt, a sweatshirt and a polo, the postage would be:

\$2.50 plus \$1.00 plus \$4.00 plus \$1.00 = \$8.50

If you order a black t-shirt, a polo shirt and 2 sweatshirts, the postage would be

\$2.50 plus \$1.00 plus \$4.00 plus \$2.00 = \$9.50

# FISTS CW CLUB

*THE INTERNATIONAL MORSE PRESERVATION SOCIETY*

## NORTH AMERICAN MEMO

EDITOR:

NANCY KOTT WZ8C PO Box 47 HADLEY MI 48440

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Hi FISTS! With any luck Murphy will stay away for the remainder of 2004 and The Keynotes will be back on track.

I realize you are probably receiving this issue AFTER you received Issue 7, but that was just the way it ended up. Issue 6 is The Photopages issue, so the order wasn't really critical, but I apologize to those of you who may be upset by it.

We're starting over with a new printing company, Webco Press, and they get high praise from everyone I've talked to, including the postmistress at the Hadley Post Office.

I probably should have switched printers years ago, but we were getting such a good deal on the printing prices that I put up with a lot of inconveniences that I shouldn't have, in retrospect. Webco is a bit more expensive, but it should be worth it with faster turn-around of the newsletters and better mail sorting for faster delivery to you.

Which Type Are You ?



The Nibbler The Hitch Hiker The Clutcher The Jitter



The Pounder The Slapper The Tea Drinker The Tapper

This was on the QSL card of Julio, NP3CW, and Stan sent it in to share with us. If I'm any of them, I'm probably The Tea Drinker. How about you?

Fourth Annual Coast to Coast Contest October 24

This year it is scheduled for October 24th from 0000Z to 2400Z. That's 24 hours of FISTS fun waiting for you. Contact as many club stations with FISTS numbers on as many bands as possible. This year we have 2 new categories. QRP and mobile. Full rules are at [http://www.tomochka.com/k7fff/fnw\\_c2c04.html](http://www.tomochka.com/k7fff/fnw_c2c04.html). Club stations please register by sending an e-mail to [fistsc2c at yahoo.com](mailto:fistsc2c@yahoo.com). All radio amateurs are invited to participate. Last year there were 56 club stations participating and nearly 200 logs received. 73 Paul Beringer NG7Z

# Welcome to the New FISTS

#	Call	Name	QTH	Sponsor
11066	AB8RK	JACK	MI	
11067	K2MEN	DON	NJ	
11068	W4VAC	CHUCK	TN	WB2FXK
11069	AC0BD	MIKE	IA	
11070	K4JSU	PAUL	FL	WA4ONV
11071	WB5OJJ	ALFRED	TX	WB2FXL
11072	KI4VPR	Anthony	FL	
11073	KC8ZQS	MATT	WV	N8IY
11074	WC7S	DALE	WY	
11075	WA1RES	Penobscot Cty ARC	ME	KB1IHO
11076	K3EYJ	RICHARD	CA	WB2FXK
11077	N1IIX	CHRIS	NH	
11078	W5BCK	BILL	CO	
11079	W7JI	LOU	AZ	
11080	N0JHU	DAN	MN	
11081	AD5FX	ANDREW	OK	
11082	KB0BA	LOWELL	IA	WB2FXK
11083	VA3UV	Ramesh	ONT	
11084	W5BOK	WILL	TX	W5DPM
11085	K8WDN	JOHN	OH	
11086	NC1C	DAVE	MA	
11087	KB1KGP	GILLIAN	MA	
11088	KB9OEL	BOBBI	IN	NB9U
11089	AB0SI	PAUL	MN	
11090	WW4ET	KERRY	GA	AA9LS
11091	WA9TOC	CHARLIE	AL	
11092	W0BCA	ROD	MN	
11093	N5OP	KIM	OK	
11094	K0JBD	JOHN	IA	N8QY
11095	KB5YSG	TOM	NM	
11096	WA2ART	PHIL	NY	
11097	W7IST	JUSTIN	WA	
11098	N3GW	GEORGE	TX	
11099	K5DUZ	RON	TX	
11100	K4FUN	STONE	TN	ND4U
11101	WA8YCD	RIVER	WV	
11102	K5PCA	BOB	NM	
11103	K0IM	PERRY	MN	
11104	K7TP	WES	CA	
11105	N5DY	GROVER	OK	
11106	WA4VJC	JACK	GA	

#	Call	Name	QTH	Sponsor
11107	KU2US	BOB	NY	
11108	WA8TWS	KEN	OH	
11109	WD8IOL	PAUL	OH	
11110	KI7V	JAMES	AZ	WB2FXK
11111	K8RBW	PAUL	IL	
11112	NH7D	DICK	HI	
11113	W6SQL	BEN	CA	W7IB
11114	W4ALJ	MARC	GA	K8JP
11115	KG4WOY	RON	TN	N4KCJ
11116	WB5GYB	BOBBIE	OK	
11117	VE7ALQ	JERRY	BC	
11118	WJ4SR	Ya'akov	GA	
11119	W9TO	JACK	IL	
11120	K0EMC	JIM	NE	K1RMF
11121	KG7FS	JAMES	MI	W7QM

## FISTS AWARDS

By Dennis K6DF, Awards Manager

By the looks of the sparse number of awards since the last column, it appears that the membership has been enjoying the nice summer weather. Award applications have tapered off through the last few months. Couple nice weather with poor band conditions and the backyard barbecue gets quite a workout! Lounging around in tennis shorts and a T-shirt, sizzling steaks on the grill, with an ice cold 807 in hand seems like a nice way to spend the warm summer afternoons.

But, . . . not for me . . . I'm a glutton for punishment! When the bands are poor and the weather is nice I attend to my "OTHER" hobbies, such as; plumbing (under the house), putting in new house windows, painting the exterior of the house, remodeling the kitchen, remodeling the dinning room, remodeling the back bathroom (down to the wall studs), and then paint the interior of the house.

About the only thing I do enjoy from my original statement about summer is the ice-cold 807's!

What's that you say? What do I do when the weather is poor? I get to enjoy my most favorite hobby of all . . . repairing the family cars, which is usually done late Sunday night in the rain!

Well, I think I've just about covered every-

thing . . . except (Sunday just after the hardware store is closed), "Honey, something's wrong with the washing machine . . ." Now you know why you haven't heard me on the bands lately.

Remember to use the awards e-mail address, ([Fistsawards@comcast.net](mailto:Fistsawards@comcast.net)) for sending in your award logs I am still receiving questions from the membership regarding the KN0WCW number. It can only be counted ONCE!

Please check the FISTS Web Page for additional information regarding current FISTS awards and how to apply for them: <http://www.fists.org/awards.html> Keep banging the brass . . . C U on the bands . . . 73, Dennis K6DF

## **AWARDS ISSUED**

Jul 21, 2004 to Sept 15, 2004

### **Basic Century (CC)**

9A1CTL  
G0TMX  
GW3LHK  
K0TC K7LTC  
K7UAZ  
KC2GLL  
KG4UPO  
KH6KW  
N5KIP  
N7NET  
W2LJ  
W9SJW

### **Silver Century**

G3MNS  
K0JJH  
K5HHS  
KG4CNZ  
WA2B  
WB6SZZ

### **Gold Century**

G3MNS  
W2KFQ  
WB4MED  
WB8NMK

### **Diamond Century**

G3UAA  
K1TG  
K8CI

### **Platinum Award**

G0FVS  
G3MNS  
K5HHS  
KC9DSE  
VE2PID  
WB8MON

### **Platinum 250 Award**

RX3AP  
WB4MED

### **Platinum 500 Award**

G3UAA

### **Worked All States (FISTS)**

WX7M

### **Rag Chewers' Club (FISTS)**

KI4DBK

### **KN0WCW WACA (New Award)**

K9JXW

## **Special Event to Celebrate the Life of Silent Key W0OUD**

Letha Dangerfield - W0OUD, deceased, was an extremely active CW operator in our area and devoted herself to the MO CW Traffic net as well as other CW pursuits including station operation during WWII. To make this all the more amazing - she was blind since age 7 and passed away about a year ago at the tender age of 90+, active to the end.

The Joplin Amateur Radio Club is hosting an event to honor her activity. It will be presented from the Joplin Association for the Blind building on November 20, 2004. A CW station will be operational there.

Thanks and 73, Mac/W9NLA Fists 3610

## QRP with K3WWP

Column #64

Two columns ago, I described setting up my portable station at my cousins house, then the last column dealt with my results in the CQWW DX contest up through the time I went to bed Saturday night.

I woke up around 1115Z Sunday morning. I was surprised to hear 8S2F coming through on 40M with a not too strong fluttery signal, and even more surprised when I worked him easily. That's probably the latest I've ever worked EU on 40M. I think it must have been because it was only 3 weeks before the winter solstice and a good deal of the path between us was still in darkness at that time. CM2UE followed, then with conditions not all that good, I went back to bed till 1300Z.

When I got up for good, I spent about 20 minutes and 8 QSO's on 15M including new contest countries EW and YL. I tuned up to 10M and was delighted to find it wide open with good strong signals and I hung out there for the next 3 hours or so and had my best QSO rates of the contest. It seemed almost like we went back in time a couple years to the great 10M conditions of the sunspot cycle peak, although this time the stations didn't seem to extend as far up the band. I didn't notice much beyond 28150 whereas I had several QSO's in the 28200's a couple years ago.

Some of the interesting contacts on 10M were the following.

TS7N who was another very popular catch with huge pileups. I found a lull in the pileups and got him easily. I always like working Albania ever since I read a book by a prominent DXer whose last country worked to get them all was Albania.

So I stayed with ZA1A a few minutes till I got him. MU/DL2OBF was rather weak compared to other EU stations (QRP maybe?), but I worked him easily. At

1450Z I got my best catch of the contest. SU9NC gave me my first ever Egypt QSO for country # 203 with QRP and simple wire antennas. I worked H7A, but forgot which Central American country the H7 prefix belonged to till I looked it up and found it to be Nicaragua. Another D4B QSO came easily making him a two-bander so far. When I left 10M around 1715Z, I was up to 169 QSO's. That meant 77 QSO's on 10M in just about 3 hours.

After that, I went back to 15M and stayed there for a couple hours. I got 5U5Z and right after that it was D4B with just a single call for a third band. Still another pileup plagued station was 9Y4ZC whom I finally got with a single call when I tuned back to his frequency for a last try. In the same category was TK9A. Right after TK9A I worked N0IM just to put a USA station in the contest log to increase my country total. Phil, NP4Z had a good signal for his QRP operation. At least I assume he was QRP since he usually is. I grabbed VE2IM in case

I needed zone 2 on 15M.

One interesting QSO came with WP2Z. I sent my call rather sloppily, more like K3WrP, but WP2Z came back with a snappy K3WWP 5998. I guess he recognized me from us having worked so often. Recognition in contests is an important asset and is one reason why successful testers enter just about every event. We all get to know each other and just like family we can communicate very easily without even saying that much.

When 15M wound down I went to 20M around 2000Z. The band was just absolutely crowded from 14000 through 14100. I tuned up and down slowly and picked out those stations I thought I could work easily or those who would be a new contest country. 20M was my poorest band in the test, but I did manage to get, among others, CQ0T, CT9M, CT3/OL8R, D44TD, RU1A, and PT5A in the half-hour or so I spent there.

I took some time off, then came back around 2200Z and spent the last couple hours jumping around the bands as best I could. I still needed 2 continents to make my goal of a contest WAC. I figured I probably wouldn't make it.

However the last hour finally brought me a QSO with KH7X for OC. It was interesting to note that I hadn't quite got my SWR down to 1:1 when I was hopping around changing bands, and with the SWR up around 1.4:1 or so, I couldn't raise KH7X. I then fiddled around with



the tuner and got my 1:1 and got him on the first call. I don't know if the SWR made the difference or if it was just a coincidence. Probably the latter as 1.4:1 isn't really very high.

I added some other new contest countries in the last couple hours from ES5MC, LY2IJ, CX7CO, CU2F, 8P5A, and RW2F. Still Asia eluded me till my very last QSO when I got P3A. Although a friend of mine said the openings to JA were the best he'd ever worked, I only heard a few weak JA's here and couldn't raise any of them for one reason or other. I had to go the other direction to get my Asia QSO.

I managed to make 230 QSO's of which 4 turned out to be dupes after final checking. I got my contest WAC. I worked 73 different countries in the contest. I think that definitely shows that you don't need much to be successful if you use CW as your operating mode. As I've repeatedly said you can have fun on the ham bands using CW, QRP, and simple wire antennas. This was an even more minimal QRP operation for me than what I do at home, yet 73 countries are in my top 5 total countries worked in a contest. I operated about 14.5 hours for an overall rate of only about 16 per hour. I could have done better in that regard if I'd had a computer or even a paper dupe sheet for dupe checking. That was the major time waster for me especially Sunday afternoon.

Let's close this by looking at some statistics. My country totals per band were: 40M-33, 20M-23, 15M-42, 10M-35.

QSO totals per band (less dupes) were 40M-56, 20M-26, 15M-63, 10M-81.

By continent (including dupes): AF-20, AS-1, EU-150, NA-38, OC-1, SA-20.

New band countries: UA1 on 40M, D4 on 40M, 5U on 20M, SU on 10M (overall new country # 203).

A final note. On Monday I worked T77C on 12M to make it 74 countries worked in 3 days. That also gave me QSO's on all bands except 160M and 17M during my stay. Time's up, so 73 for now. Three ways to contact me besides an on the air

QSO: <http://home.alltel.net/johnshan>, [jisk3wwp@alltel.net](mailto:jisk3wwp@alltel.net), or John Shannon,

478 E. High St., Kittanning, PA 16201-1304.

## MY FIRST CW QSO...

By P43E, Emily Thiel #5055  
P.O.Box 614, Oranjestad, Aruba  
[p43e@hotmail.com](mailto:p43e@hotmail.com)

Six months after passing the VHF theory exam, I upgraded to the HF license by successfully completing the Morse code exam. Unfortunately, the paperwork for my HF license took a little over 8 months to be processed. When I finally got my license in October 1997, and thus on-the-air, I did not feel comfortable working CW as I had forgotten most of the letters already. For the next two years, I worked primarily SSB, but I still made a meager 15 CW contacts.

The 12 WPM needed for the exam was definitely forgotten. The CW portion of the band sounded like machine guns going off. No matter the speed, it all sounded too fast for me. My keyer (a WW II relic) was kept in the closet as I had no use for it.

Yet how can I forget my first CW contact. On December 5, 1997, I was actually beaming to JA's on 21.195 MHz (SSB) around our sunset. In order to work JA from here, we have to beam exactly over the USA, and below 21.200 is a great frequency to work Asia, and a perfectly legal SSB frequency from here. After about 20 min of a steady pileup, the band was dying very quickly. No matter how many CQ's I called, nobody came back. 15m had closed for the night.

However, I persisted for another few minutes calling CQ. Suddenly there was someone signing CW on "my" frequency. It was a strong signal, but I was surprised that anyone decided to sign so high up in the band, and I truly wondered why? I was still calling CQ in SSB. So, I disregarded the caller and continued calling. My CQs seemed to distract him, because he stopped signing anytime I CQed. The keying became slower it seemed. After what may have been a 5 minute tug-of-war, I finally realized that he was actually signing my callsign. I still didn't get it. Why??? I walked over to my

closet, and started looking for the keyer. As soon as I found it, I plugged it into the radio. This straight key unfortunately was dusty, and combined with a fist that hadn't signed a single on-the-air QSO, the result was just awful. But he was persistent, and somehow, I managed to get his call, name, city, and state. I also tried my best at signing my info back to him, but I am sure he must have wondered many times what letters I was trying to sign. Nonetheless, I was truly excited.

The next day, I happily boasted to my brother (P43T), that I worked N7PMS in CW. My brother did not miss a chance to tease me that perhaps someone played a joke on me. Next, I searched on the internet, if at least the call existed. Luckily, name, city and state were confirmed. Whew... Tomas in WA existed. Perhaps, I did actually copy the info correctly.

A few days later I mailed a QSL with all sorts of apologies. After all, it took a while for me to realize he was even calling me, and I still had to look for the keyer. A few months later as I forgot about the QSO and CW, I received a QSL from Tom. He told me he was on a boat and that he had no microphone or key. He shorted some wires to make the QSO. My first CW contact was an actual contact and I had a card to prove it. N7PMS 5-dec-1997 22:46 15 cw. After receiving that first CW QSL, I started to get interested in the mode, but I was not committed, and SSB took over again.

I've always enjoyed contesting, but never using code. Encouraged by P40E/CT1BOH and P49V/A16V, I worked a few stations during CQWW CW 2000. Scanning the band during the contest, I truly realized that I hardly understood any of the stations. I was upset at myself, and decided I had to do something. My brother, who was then teaching the theory course at the club, had bought CodeQuick to evaluate. He asked me to try it out, and I quickly relearned morse.

At a Dayton Hamvention visit, I had joined FISTS, but had never really been active on CW. As

I finished the tapes, I began CQing, and my practice was mostly on or around the .058 frequencies. My copying was improving, the straight keyer was changed to an Iambic keyer, and CW was becoming more and more fun by the day. As the days and weeks passed, my copying attention span would increase, and I wasn't too brain-tired after just one or two Q's. Thanks to everyone who took the time to QRS. Not surprisingly many QSO's were with Fists members, who were truly patient, and have encouraged me to continue to practice. Hats off to everybody, and continue the good work.

Just as a side note. My 1997-2001 log was primarily SSB (99%). In 2002: 41% CW. In 2003-2004, it's about 50-50. Who would have thought it possible? It's become a very enjoyable mode with over 15,000 CW Q's in the log.

73,88 de Emily, P43E

### **From WZ8C's Mailbag**

Accuracy transcends speed? I thought I'd pass this on to you. A long time ago I had the pleasure of having a 15M CW QSO with a mobile. He was from

North Carolina headed to Florida with his son. At the time of the QSO he was passing through South Carolina. He was only going about 15 WPM, but didn't miss a lick in spite of his being mobile. I don't recall how long the QSO was, but it went on a long time. It was the best that I'd ever had.... Accuracy does indeed transcend speed.!

Steve W00OW — FISTS#7808

I finally got North Dakota on the 4th of July. I want to say that K6DF sure has a very efficient way of doing award business.

I mailed it to him on the 6th and got the Award back on the 13th. One week total time from Florida to Calif and back, one week! That is amazing to me. You put things in the Keynote. U might say K8HBI is pleased by K6DF performance.

Chas [sorry I don't know his call -WZ8C]

P.S. It took 4 yrs to get K0VX.

Happiness is making W.A.S.



## New Search Features on the Bureau Web Page [www.fistsburo.org](http://www.fistsburo.org)

Added to the New Status Search are the calls of all members to whom we have ever sent cards. An example of a reply is: Status for K4BAI as of 9-12-2004 Cards on Hand: 0 Envelopes on Hand: 12

If we have no SASE's the reply will read, for example: Status for AF4NW as of 9-12-2004 Cards on Hand: 2 Envelopes on Hand: 0

If we have not ever sent any cards the reply will read: Status for W1AD as of 9-12-2004 Cards on Hand: 0 Envelopes on Hand: 0 No Record found

The Searching Feature of List 1 now also includes the calls of all members to whom we have ever sent cards.

The replies will be either: K4BAI has (or has had) envelopes at the Buro W4DON prefers to QSL Direct N4BP prefers to NOT QSL at ALL K4TTX has not responded to our requests for SASE's W1AD QSL Information is unknown

For both search features I have attempted to remove all "Silent Keys" and also all "Old Calls" I generally deliver cards and envelopes to the guys who help me about every two weeks. They provide me a status up-date file after they have made a mailing. I then up-date the files for the search features.

I will up-date the envelopes data for the New Status Search as soon as I receive additional SASE's. And I will change the file for the Searching Feature of List 1 when I receive the first set of envelopes from a member.

I really appreciate the help I receive from these guys: Riley, K4ORD - "1" calls Dick, K1HEL - "2" calls JJ, W4EIE - "3" & "6" calls Frank, KE4HOA - "5" & "9" calls Buddy, W4YE - "7" & "0" Charlie, K4BSF - "8" calls I handle the "4" calls and the "VE" & "DX" Also my special thanks to Anthony, WM3T who set up the search features.

If you have problems making the search feature work, he says to Email him. If you have questions concerning the reply from a search send your Email to me. I think you will enjoy being able to find out your status of cards and envelopes here at the Bureau by just typing in your call in the New Status Search 73, Stan - K4UK FISTS QSL Bureau



# KC8WGA

David Huhtala  
606 Bjornson, L1  
Big Rapids, Michigan 49307

County: Mecosta Grid: EN73gq

AGE: 12 YRS OLD

Station	Date	UTC	MHz	Mode	Signal
N4ACF	5/13/04	1347	7.058	CW	579

Rig: ☐ Ten-Tec Argonaut V ☒ ICOM 718  
Power: 10 Watts ☐ QRP  
Antenna: ☒ Vertical ☐ Inverted V ☐ Dipole  
QSL: ☐ Pse ☒ Tnx

FISTS #10287  
ARRL A1 Operator

73.

Dave

TNX FOR FIVE QSO RALPH!

FISTS member David has a cool photo QSL card and is very active on the air. He's also a member of the ARRL A-1 Operators Club. Way to go David, we're proud of you! We have quite a few 'under 18's" in FISTS - how about dropping us a note and letting us know how you're doing and where we can find you on the air? Any interest in starting up a Kid's Net? Let me know! Nancy WZ8C (nancy@tir.com)

## Why CW?

1. **If you have children** you can make Morse code contacts quietly while the kids are asleep. Put on a pair of headphones and chat or work DX quietly.
2. **If you have an XYL:** Using headphones, you can make Morse code contacts while she's on the phone, watching TV, or reading. You're not yelling into a mic, which is disturbing, even from the basement.
3. **All the good DX is on CW:** Face it, when hundreds of stations around the world get on SSB and try to work one rare DX station, the result is general chaos. It's very frustrating. CW is much different. You can have 10,000 stations calling a rare DX location, and he can usually sort out the strongest signal with a tight filter. CW signals don't splatter either.
4. **Good CW Radios are CHEAP!** Almost any SSB radio will perform very well as a CW radio with the addition of a CW filter. Not so for SSB. A high performance SSB radio capable of competitive performance can be very expensive. Lots of used gear came from a time when CW was king and still work in that mode very well.
5. **You can build a CW radio.** Sure you can build an SSB radio like the K2 from Elecraft too, but there are many more CW radios out there you can build and use. They will be easier to build, cheaper, smaller and consume less power. You can take a small CW radio, antenna, and battery with you on a backpacking trip and you will make contacts. It's done frequently and there are even organizations that specialize in this kind of QRP operation.
6. **You will have less TVI with CW.** Simply because there are less modulation products, less chance of overdrive, and you can run much less power. Many hams run CW with QRP radios and work the world with just a few watts quietly from densely populated neighborhoods without causing any interference.
7. **You can generally get around "restrictive covenants" with CW.** Because CW can be used successfully with small antennas, backyard wires, and even wires on the ground, it gives you more options for stealth antenna systems. For SSB operation, you can also run low power, but your competition on the bands is predominantly higher power stations with reasonable antenna sights. For years I ran QRP CW from my dorm, various apartments, and even today from hotels, making thousands of contacts.
8. **There is no language barrier on CW.** Because of Q signals, it's possible to have a short structured QSO with anyone in the world on CW. This is impossible on SSB if they don't speak a language you understand. While these may not be long drawn out ragchews, they are exciting contacts, and often operators know some English on a written basis they would not even attempt on SSB. If you know any foreign language, you know what I mean. Written translation is much easier and less intimidating (in fact its available from many software companies) than attempting to speak a foreign language.
9. **CW stations are easy to set up, take along, and use in a variety of conditions.** If you travel, you can generally take a CW rig with you and actually use it. In an unknown physical environment CW is much easier to operate with less intrusion on others than SSB. From a hotel room you can operate CW while the XYL is watching TV or reading. You can quietly do CW on the beach with a portable antenna and a 2 watt battery radio.
10. **Noise blankers actually work in CW mode.** Sure, the better ones work somewhat in SSB, but what you hear after they take out the noise is often hard to understand. In CW, the noise is often effected by a narrow bandwidth filter, and the noiseblankers don't interfere with the on/off keying of the signal as much as they do with the complex waveforms created by mixing noise and SSB.
11. **In an emergency CW can be done with just about anything.** Knowing the Morse Code can be vital to your survival in many situations. You can send a "CW" signal by keying anything from a CW transmitter to an automobile horn. Try that with SSB.
12. **CW QSO's can be short or long.** The shortest CW QSO can be just a signal report, name and location, taking just a minute or so, or it can be a 90 minute rag chew. If you have 15 minutes to kill while the XYL puts on her makeup, you can have a CW QSO, work a new country, or check out the result of your antenna modifications. That's a lot more difficult on SSB!
14. **CW QSO's are more private.** No one is likely to overhear your comments about the neighbors dog and understand them unless they know Morse Code! (even if you do come over their TV!)
15. **When you come home from a long day at the office, CW is really relaxing.** CW is not like another conversation at work. It's much different. You can save your voice for talking to the XYL and still enjoy contacts on CW. In fact, after a good CW session or two on the radio, you'll be more likely to want to talk to the XYL, and she'll love that!

**16. You can enjoy Ham Radio even when you are sick.** Every try talking with the flu, laryngitis, or any other ailment that effects your nasal passages or throat? On CW it's not a problem. Forget it with SSB.

**17. CW can be mechanized easily.** You can send CW with a straight key, a paddle, a computer, a keyboard, a memory keyer etc. This permits a wide variety of experimentation, choices, and opportunities for enjoyment beyond your normal voice which you live with every day.

**18. CW Contests are more fun than SSB Contests, and you CAN participate.** Just ask anyone who does both. Contesting is competitive radio sport, and it's a blast, even if you operate with a small station. In the CQ WW DX Contest this year I found myself operating from a rented house in Tahoe with a 20 meter dipole about 15 feet off the ground and 100 watts. I did very well, even breaking several pileups on CW. In an SSB contest I would have lost my voice!

**19. Morse code is more "romantic" than talking into a box.** I'm still waiting for a Leonardo De Capria movie to illustrate this concept properly, but everyone can talk into a cell phone these days so explaining how you talk on a radio just isn't the same as explaining your interest in "telegraphy" that you picked up after watching the Titanic radio operators calling for help as the ship sank. I doubt you'll pick up many women with it, but it does make for interesting conversation, especially if you look at the subject from the lay person's perspective. Most people have seen a telegrapher in a western or WWII movie and can relate to the technology at some level especially if you put it into human terms. The telegrapher was often the most trusted person on board with the duty of handling all of the confidential communication as well as being committed enough to the welfare of others to go down with the ship while calling SOS and you just feel a certain kinship to those kind of people. It must be your horoscope or your sign or something. Say, when is your birthday?

**20. Morse code is politically correct.** Telegraphers have long known that you can't tell who is on the other end of the QSO (except perhaps by a real name of course). You can't tell if they are black, white, brown, purple, male, female, or handicapped. Many handicapped CW operators use Morse to get around their limitations and enjoy intelligent conversation using technology to interface to the radio for sending.

**21. CW is a skill, and it's valuable to the group.** Get a group of Hams together to run Field Day or visit some exotic island on a DX Trip and the CW operators will be the subset that will generally be given first choice of bands, operating times, and preference. In planning a trip or activity, if you have more applicants than positions, you know a CW operator can usually talk, but not everyone who can talk is a good CW operator.

**22. There are more celebrities on CW than on SSB.** Partly this is probably because of their busy schedules, but mostly its because of the anonymity. In my years as a ham I've worked some very famous people on CW. It's actually amazing how many celebrities are ham radio operators. You just never know who is on the key on the other end of the QSO.

**23. CW is the default mode for ham radio.** Until this year when the 60 meter SSB channels were added to the Amateur spectrum, CW was permitted on all Amateur allocations, unlike SSB, FM, AM etc. and these "channels" are miniscule in comparison to the general Amateur allocations, and may change.

**24. Armageddon and Aliens can't beat Morse code.** Just as the military has begun to understand, all high tech communications systems are very vulnerable to any enemy who has similar technology, Hollywood thinkers (is that an oxymoron?) have made a similar discovery. The Pentagon has given more priority to HF activity as a result (originally it was downplayed to help fund the development of the new technology). In HF communication, very little beats CW for getting through. The things that do (computers with sophisticated software) are themselves highly vulnerable. A good CW operator needs just a few ounces of water, some food, a 2 watt radio, wire, and a key to communicate. In the past few years, CW has been accurately portrayed as the final communication system when the world as we know it collapses. If you are afraid of alien beings attempting to colonize Earth, you should probably learn the code. Ditto if you think Armageddon is around the corner!

**25. You can decode old war movie and western transmissions**

No kidding, many of the old movies actually sent code. No one knows what it means, unless they know Morse. You can even invent your own meaning if it's not really Morse, because only you will know!

So go order those code tapes or CD's and as Dr. Laura would say "go do the right thing"! Learn Morse code!

**73, Len, WT6G**

[WZ8C note: I edited this a bit due to space; check out Len's website at <http://www.wt6g.com>]

## **My First DahDahDiDah DiDiDit DahDahDah**

It seems like it's been a lot longer than it has since my upgrade and my first venture into the wonderful world of live CW QSOs; not because of the difficulties but because of the sheer pleasure from being able to carry on a conversation with out having to use my voice. Those people that know me very well can confirm that I am terribly shy when it comes to meeting new people and I tend to find the deepest, darkest corner to fade into until someone wanders my way to drag me into a conversation.

I had committed myself to upgrading to General and joining the ranks of other HF operators out there after meeting a very friendly and dynamic gentleman, Jean Luthi - KB2T, at the San Diego County Emergency Operations Center during my first RACES meeting. I kept overhearing lots of people complaining about how difficult it is to attain that treasured 5 WPM speed on CW just to get HF privileges and here was a man that really enjoyed CW and has a way of building even the slightest spark of interest in CW into a roaring fire by the passion he uses when talking about CW contacts. He gave me a lot of very helpful pointers about changing my study habits to really be able to understand the differences between each character as a whole and not get bogged down in trying to count the dits and dahs.

Now, I'm also the kind of person that will always step up to a personal challenge no matter how nervous I am. I still remember the day I was talking to Jean Luthi about whether I should start with a straight key or paddles and how to decide what key to buy when you really don't know what you're doing yet. His comment to me was not to spend a lot of money until I knew for sure whether I would really enjoy CW in the long term. Well, that really made me look deeper into whether I was so enthusiastic about CW because it was new, or because it opened opportunities to communicate with so many other people from other countries, or just because I love the sound of CW when the spacing and timing is just right. There's no doubt in my mind now that CW is my favorite mode of communication.

It took me quite a while to get the alphabet, figures and special characters down solid but I think what helped me the most in the early days, and we're only talking about six months ago, was getting into the habit of practicing several times a day for short periods. The short periods weren't a problem for me, so I found out, because after 20 minutes or so, I had a huge headache and couldn't bear to hear another stream of incomprehensible tones.

I wouldn't give up though and tried varying the speed I was copying a lot to give me some variety. I originally started with the CDs you can buy from ARRL but the biggest help for me was mov-

ing to a software program that gave me much more control over the order of the letters you learn, practicing by creating your text files to play and having a chance to try sending and get feedback on whether I was sending the right or wrong character. C and Y were insane for me. I just could not recognize those two letters consistently until I spent days with the software telling me I was transmitting garbage or a C or a Y.

Eventually, I got to the point where I could paste e-mails I received into text files and copy them by listening to the CW generated by the software and then go back and read the original to see if I really understood what a copied. I kept practicing with a character speed of 16 to 18 WPM, slowed down to 5 WPM with spacing which ended up making the test that much easier. I think it really helps in getting your speed up too once you get on the air.

When it came time to upgrade, I committed to a General upgrade class and ended up helping to teach the rest of the class because I had a laptop and was familiar enough with the software to show and drill them in the same manner that had worked for myself. All the extra practice and the pressure of having to stay ahead of the class really made me put in a lot of extra time in working on my copying skills. There's a huge difference between listening to software and listening to a real person sending code.

The last class, we were treated to a live QSO with Jean

Luthi at the key and a gentleman that was mobile somewhere else in the USA. I can't remember a lot about that QSO because about half way through it, I remember feeling like a circuit breaker popped in my head and I couldn't follow along any more. My upgrade went very smoothly though and I passed my element 1 test with just one mistake which made me feel so relieved. I tend to always think I failed when I end up doing well and when I feel like I've done all right, I usually did much worse.

Leading up to my upgrade exam, I had started participating in a few mailing lists to get other peoples opinions about how to choose your first key. I also joined FISTS and didn't realize it at the time but my initial letter got posted in the newsletter. I was very lucky to run into Becky - K6EY who really wanted to be my first CW contact. We had exchanged a few e-mails outside the mailing list and spoke a lot about CW and FISTS and all things CW related.

I was certainly nervous about my first QSO and wasn't sure I'd be able to be understood since I had really spent a majority of my time copying and not sending.

The fateful day rolled around on March 27 after I survived my element 1 and 3 tests and it was time for my very first CW QSO. It took me a little while to work up the courage and recover from the upgrade tests to try a CW QSO but my friend Becky K6EY really set my mind

at ease and got me on the air as quickly as possible.

I remember feeling queasy and trembling and so nervous about not being able to carry on a conversation but the QSO lasted 40 minutes. Right now, I couldn't tell you a single thing about that QSO aside from the exhilaration when we signed off and walking over to stick my head in the freezer for a couple of minutes to recover.

In the first couple of weeks on HF I could have told you exactly where everything was in relation to everything else in my freezer. After that first day I've been on the air practically every day with CW.

On April 4, I had my first CW QSO with a straight key and was happy to hear that I was easy to copy with both the straight key and with paddles. I was determined from the start to send with my non-dominant hand and I figured it would take a lot longer than it did to learn to send consistently but I was pleasantly surprised.

It wasn't until May 26 that I made my next jump to pure head copying. I had to throw paper across the room to keep myself from falling back to writing down everything letter by letter. It's never easy to trust yourself to be able to keep up and to know that it's all right to ask for repeats if you miss something. I can actually live with paper close at hand now without falling back into letter by letter copying unless it's necessary.

I can't even tell you when

things changed to being easier to copy at faster speeds than at slower speeds; I tend to lose parts of words all over the place if the speeds slower than I'm used to. That's just another challenge for me to work on.

I plan to mentor anyone else that comes my way asking for practice just like Becky did for me.

Now, I look forward to every CW contact I can get because a CW QSO is much more powerful than a whole pot of coffee to me. I still get a rush in the mornings when I start out with a short QSO. I need to start working on various speeds and my endurance.

My first check-in with the OCNW Sunday morning net had me heading for the freezer again after the lengthy net and the two QSOs I had right afterwards but it was worth every minute and I think CW will always be my favorite mode.

By Tony May - KG6SXY  
- FISTS NR 10681

*Reminders:*

*FISTS Sprint  
October 9*

*Coast to Coast  
October 24*



## Ask The FISTS

*If you have a technical question, etiquette question or want to get a second (or third or fourth!) opinion on something, drop me a note and I'll put it in the newsletter for comments.*

In the last issue, we had a question about how to get on the air if your antenna options are limited. Here are responses that I received in time to put in this issue - there may be more advice on this in the following issue [Nancy WZ8C]

Nancy, I read with sadness on page 14 of Issue 5 2004, the plight of two hams (Glen Taylor K1ES and Al, FISTS 2069) who live in apartments or communities with strict HOA rules as far as outdoor antennas.

I'm not the most active ham in the world but my job takes me on the road to CA, FL and AL from time to time and depending on the trip length, I sometimes tuck either my 40 or 20 meter MFJ QRP CW rig into my suitcase along with the AC power supply, a 20 foot homemade dipole antenna and my little Emtech QRP Antenna tuner.

The results while operating portable from various hotels have been very satisfying. My best con-

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**tell them to not  
get discouraged  
and give up**

---

tacts were a Connecticut station from a hotel in Santa Maria California on 20, numerous CA, AZ, TX and FL QSOs while operating on 40 from a hotel room in Huntsville AL and an occasional NY or NJ station while operating on 40 from an upper level beach front hotel room in Cocoa Beach FL.

I try to stay on the second or third floor in hotels that are wooden framed structures but the NY and NJ QSOs were accomplished with one leg of the dipole dropped over the railing of my 5th floor hotel room in Melbourne FL and the other leg stretched into the room. The tuner will load up to just about anything with SWR generally 1.3 to 1 or less!

Last year for field day, I used an MFJ portable vertical - a little 54 inch wonder with built in tuner

that handles up to 200 watts on 40-10 meters. It costs about 50 dollars and sits on the floor. It connects to the rig with a built in 25 or so foot coax. Used it on 20 meters from a portable location west of Colo Springs and got reasonably good RST reports from Maui HI and various CONUS stations in MI, MN, TX, AZ, UT and even SC.

These may not seem like amazing results but they satisfied my need to get on the air. Please forward my little story to those gentlemen and tell them to not get discouraged and give up. Not sure that Emtech is still in business but if not, there are many other companies including MFJ who sell small antenna tuners. The dipole is made of some 20 or 22 gauge insulated stranded wire and a single egg insulator in the middle. I use thumbtacks to string it around the hotel room near the ceiling. It connects to the tuner with a 7 or 8 foot piece of RG-58 coax with alligator clips soldered to the shield and center conductor on one end and a standard PL-259 connector on the other. Takes about 5 minutes to > erect and take down and so far, have never heard any complaints about RFI or wall damage from the the various hotels. I do use headphones though as > the dit dahs might disturb someone in an adjacent room HI! 73 Bud Wintcher WA0RGG Colo Springs FISTS 3991 [hwintcher@juno.com](mailto:hwintcher@juno.com)

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Although the no-code crowd may have branded CW as a barrier to HF, it's actually quite the reverse: The real barrier to HF for more and more hams (and potential hams) is antenna restrictions, whether of the HOA/Restrictive Covenant variety, or just no space. In virtually every case, it is possible to install an antenna that is at least as effective as a typical mobile whip, as long as you think "outside of the box".

Nevertheless, these antennas fare poorly compared to the a Yagi on a tower or typical dipole. This is a severe handicap for phone OPs, but as long as you don't have your heart set on the DXCC honor roll, you can have a lot of fun with CW at low and moderate power.

Putting an antenna indoors should really be a last-gasp measure, you want to let the inverse-square law keep you and your consumer electron-



ics away from RF. Most new house construction these days uses plastic siding, plastic guttering and plastic plumbing, so stringing inconspicuous wire a few inches away from the surface of the house works well. Wires can be inside plastic gutters, under soffits and eaves or use dummy downspouts and electrical rigid aluminum conduit.

Look around your neighborhood and mimic whatever you see attached to the side of a house: cable TV and telephone drops, awnings, retrofit central AC, radon remediation. There's all manner of junk stuck on the side of houses, not to mention bird feeders suspended on wires, and ladders propped up against sheds. A little creativity pays big dividends. It doesn't have to look like an antenna to radiate. 73, Bob Block W2SR

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This is in response to Glenn, K1ES, and Al, FISTS 2069, about antennas and space constraints. I am in a similar situation. A year ago we moved into a house on a small lot. In my previous location, an apartment no less, I had access to a roof and room for two dipoles. In the house, I have no space for a dipole on the lot, and mounting a vertical is a problem because of the power and phone lines coming into the house.

So I decided to try an experiment to see if I could get back on the air. I got a roll of wire from Radio Shack and ran it around the ceiling of my shack to make a horizontal loop. It's about 50 feet of wire. I then fed it with Radio Shack twinlead and ran it into my MFJ tuner. I'm able to tune the antenna on 30M through 10M and I typically run under 50W. While I won't make the DXCC Honor Roll with this setup, I make contacts regularly and even work some DX.

I next plan to go up into the attic and run a longer loop to see if I can get onto 40M.

Thanks and 73, Dave N2HTA FISTS #8031

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For apartment and covenant restriction dwellers- look in the MFJ catalogue they have an antenna for balcony railing mounts. We are Hams. Think and homebrew. If you live a house or townhouse, what about the attic? If the attic is common and open string a dipole or end fed. If you have window mount air conditioner, what about a magna mount HF ant? I used to live in an apartment building 23rd floor. Gud luck and experiment. As Jean Shepherd used to say, "Enjoy the CW and the hobby." 73 Richard Appleyard VE3YAG

## To QRS or Not To QRS?

*This topic also generated a lot of mail. I'll be putting more letters in future issues. Thanks for your comments, keep them coming!*

I have seen letters in QST from Hams who have their Extra class and 20 wpm and stated they will only work Extras who can do 20 and anyone else who cannot do their speed are not worthy of Extra class. These Hams forget there are Hams who suffer from arthritis and other muscle diseases. As far as I am concerned Nancy, they are probably missing an enjoyable QSO. I am quite sure Jack WB2FXK can pound it out quite fast but I found him to work the same speed as his contact. AA9UF should not worry about it after all there are over 11 thousand FISTS numbers assigned; same advice for WB4MED.

The high speed senders have forgotten they were in the same position once and it is only electronic hobby. If I hear someone I always try to make contact and have a nice QSO with my fellow Ham. So if you hear VE3YAG/VE0RCN on CW, give me a shout. I will work you and have no fear my speed is 12 wpm but I can QRS quite easily as I am trying to think and chew gum at the same time. Richard Appleyard VE3YAG/VE0RCN

The Fall Sprint is October 9, 1700Z to 2100Z. I hope you have a chance to participate. Please send in your logs to Dan Shepherd, N8IE, 1900 PITTSFIELD ST, KETTERING OH 45420-2127. You can also send in your log electronically following the instructions on the Sprint link on our web page <http://www.fists.org>

# CW is not dying

by Clarke Cooper, K8BP, MI FIST# 10695

Over the past several months there has been a lot of talk about the elimination of CW from the General License requirements, and what I can comprehend, it will most likely happen. Many of you are saying, "Well, that will be the end of Ham Radio" others say "CW is dying anyway", and still others say, "CW is an inefficient and ancient mode of communications". For us old timers that worked hard to learn the 5, 13 & 20 wpm requirements including yours truly, this can be a controversial subject.

But just think about, how our Technology is constantly changing. From the good old spark gap transmitters days came the tube type transmitters that weighed a ton. Then the transistor and the field effect transistors entered the scene. Now with the integrated and microchip technology that made our rigs smaller than a size of a shoe box. These small rigs are super stable, power efficient and of course loaded to the hilt with all of the bells and whistles. With this new high tech development, new additional communications modes such as PSK-31, Packet, Pactor, Amtor, ATV etc. were developed and put to use on the amateur bands. Even with all of these high tech modes and changes, I can assure you, that **CW is not dying**. Just take the time and tune in on the lower portions of the HF bands any time of the day or night and you will find plenty of CW stations on the air. For CW, it is one of my favorite modes of communications. Having the fortunate opportunity to pound the brass key for over 43 years and one who spends quite a bit of time on CW running QRP with my Elecraft K2, it is quite obvious to me that CW is increasing at a fairly good rate. Even faster than the new modes I have just mentioned. With such organizations like the ARRL, FISTS, Adventure Radio Society, and QRP clubs and with the number of Elecraft kit transceivers being built through out the world, CW is still one of the most popular, efficient and most reliable modes of communications in all types of atmospheric conditions. During the past several CW Contests, I could not help but notice the newly issued call signs I was working. This alone only reassured my belief that **CW is not dying**.

Yes we have seen many changes to our license requirements over the years and we all seem to adjust quite quickly. Yes, further changes will be made in the future. There will be those who will complain about the change, and others who will accept them. In reality, whatever the FCC Decides to do in the future, we must have a positive outlook and be thankful that we all have these wonderful privileges, that enables all of us to communicate and make new friends around this wonderful place we call earth.

With all of the future changes, I am really convinced that those operating on the allocated SSB portion of the HF band will someday have the desire to explore CW. That is the magnet of Ham Radio and the willingness for all of us to improve ourselves as individuals.

For those of you who haven't had a try of CW yet, try it. Once one has mastered the Morse code, getting on the air has the same feeling as playing a musical instrument

CW has rhythm and has a musical tone to the ear. And yes CW is truly "Ham Radio". With very little work one can learn Morse code and then take that step and try CW on the air. Don't be frightened to get your feet wet. Don't worry about your code speed capabilities. CW operators will adjust and welcome the new kid on the block. Just remember we were once a new kid on the block ourselves, and deep down inside, most of us really look forward in helping other Ham develop their operating skills. Yes indeed, CW operators are a special breed that shows great compassion to others as we participate in this great hobby we all enjoy.

In closing, I will guarantee you thing. Once you start using the CW mode you will be hooked forever and yes, CW will prevail. In closing, my Michigan truck license plate number speaks for it's self.

CW 4 EVR

T-SHIRTS

BLACK

quantity/size  
[ ] small [ ] med [ ] large [ ] XL [ ] XXL [ ] XXXL]=

BLUE

quantity/size  
[ ] small [ ] med [ ] large [ ] XL [ ] XXL [ ] XXXL]=

Total number of T-SHIRTS = multiplied by \$5.00 each = \$

FLEECE SWEATSHIRTS

quantity/size  
[ ] small [ ] med [ ] large [ ] XL [ ] XXL [ ] XXXL]=

Total number of SWEATS = multiplied by \$10.00 each = \$

FISTS Telegraph Key Logo Embroidered Polo Shirts

quantity/size  
[ ] small [ ] med [ ] large [ ] XL [ ] XXL [ ] XXXL]=

Total number of Polo Shirts = multiplied by \$14.00 each = \$

Total cost of the shirts...\$

SHIPPING:

First Tshirt or Polo: \$2.50..... \$  
Additional t-shirts/polos X \$1.00..... \$  
First Sweatshirt: \$4.00..... \$  
Add'l sweatshirts multiplied by \$2.00..... \$  
Total Shipping cost ..... \$

TOTAL  
Cost of shirts \$  
plus  
Shipping \$  
TOTAL: \$

Ship the shirts to:

Checks payable to FISTS CW CLUB; orders sent to FISTS, PO Box 47 Hadley MI 48440  
or via Paypal (www.paypal.com) to fists@tir.com (NOTE it's fists@tir.com NOT nancy@tir.com)

## **QSL Bureau issues another "Spoon Award Honoring Senior Moments and Bonehead Actions"**

Stan, K4UK, of the FISTS QSL Bureau informs me that we have the Sixth Recipient of the QSL Bureau Spoon Award.

A FISTS member sent in 50 *blank* QSL cards.

I've edited Stan's article a bit for space, but I think you'll get the general idea, hi hi.

Charlie Beckwith, K4BSF was the First Recipient of the Spoon Award Plaque. The reason for honoring Charlie was based multiple Senior Moments during and following the 70th Birthday Party for Stan, K4UK.

When Charlie got home from the Party, he Emailed to Stan: "I brought home one of your forks by mistake. Sorry. I'll return it on the next trip unless you will need it before then." Stan responded: "I think perhaps you should have worn my new cap home which is embroidered 'I'm Having a Senior Moment'. Where did you have the fork, in your pants pocket?" He then responded: "I had it in my shirt pocket. I usually carry one there because you never know when you will run into something to eat" The next day he followed up with another Email: "Correction: it is a spoon and not a fork so I guess that is strike three toward an award of some sort. Hope I do not forget the spoon at the Club meeting next week."

Subsequent to the award of the Plaque to Charlie, others have performed deeds, which the Bureau volunteers feel fully entitle them to have their actions suitably documented.

The Spoon Award Certificates Honoring Senior Moments and Bonehead Actions Second Recipient - M0AVW. His award says: This is to certify that if Chuck Spence, M0AVW, had done his Micro Scooter stunt here in Franklin County, Virginia, U.S.A., he would have surely received the Spoon Award for such a "Bonehead Action" In lieu thereof, I present him this certificate of what might have been Presented this 25th day of April, 2001 Stan Reas FISTS QSL Bureau.

The Spoon Award Certificate's Third Recipient - ZL2AOH. His reads: This is to certify that had Ralph Sutton, ZL2AOH fueled his automobile with diesel instead of petrol here in Franklin County, Virginia, U.S.A. rather than in Khandallah, NZ he would have surely received the Spoon Award for such a "Bonehead Action" In lieu thereof, I present him this certificate of what might have been Presented this 28th day of October, 2001 Stan Reas FISTS QSL Bureau.

Fourth Recipient - KG4MMY His certificate reads: This is to certify that if Greg Gifford, KG4MMY were a member of the Franklin County Amateur Radio Club, his sending ten SASE's with the Bureau address instead of his own on all ten of them, would have fully qualified him to receive the Spoon Award for such a "Bonehead Action" In lieu thereof, I present him this certificate of what might have been Presented this 1st day of October, 2003 Stan Reas FISTS QSL Bureau.

Fifth Recipient - KB3JAR His certificate reads: This is to certify that if Ray Schinzel, KB3JAR were a member of the Franklin County Amateur Radio Club, his sending 99 QSL cards with FISTS # 11486 marked on all 99 of them instead of his "real" FISTS # 10486, would have fully qualified him to receive the Spoon Award for such a "Bonehead Action" In lieu thereof, I present him this certificate of what might have been Presented this 27th day of January, 2004 Stan Reas FISTS QSL Bureau.

Sixth Recipient - [anonymous until we get his permission to use his name] This is to certify that if [anonymous] were a member of the Franklin County Amateur Radio Club, his sending 50 QSL cards to the FISTS QSL Bureau, all of which were blank would have fully qualified him to receive the Spoon Award for such a "Bonehead Action" In lieu thereof, I present him this certificate of what might have been Presented this 30th day of July, 2004 Stan Reas FISTS QSL Bureau.

Ah, these "Senior Moments" !



# KEY NOTE



Sec: E. (Geo) Longden, G3ZQS. 119 Cemetery Rd., DARWEN, BB3 2LZ, England. 01254-703948

<http://www.fists.co.uk>

E-Mail HQ: [fist1@btinternet.com](mailto:fist1@btinternet.com) webmaster: [webmaster@asel.demon.co.uk](mailto:webmaster@asel.demon.co.uk)

## OFFICES

QSL Manager: M0AVW

32 Woodford Walk, Harewood Park, TS17 0LT

PRO: G4YLB. J.A. Welsh

3 Minster Cresc. DARWEN, BB3 3PY

CONTEST MANAGER: M5AGL

15a Buckden Rd., BRAMPTON, PE18 4PR

## COMMITTEE

Chairman

Vice Chairman

P.R.O.

Secretary

G4XHZ

G4YLB

G4YLB

G3ZQS

Psc keep watch on all Novice allocations

Recommended calling QRGs:

3.558, 7028, 14.058, 21.058, 28.058

## AWARDS

e-mail apps/logs to Dennis, K6DF:

<[fistsawards@comcast.net](mailto:fistsawards@comcast.net)>

written logs to HQ. No charges and no return envelope required.

## GREETINGS

Well, August has been a funny old month to say the least. The bands have been up and down with DX openings late evening and high noise levels particularly on 40/80 whilst we have been graced with a few occasions when those bands at least have reverted to a more acceptable norm. The weather has been no less predictable with an entire Cornish village virtually destroyed and the same extremes brought out rescue helicopters to pluck stranded people from land slides and flash floods. As some of you may know, my house is some 100 feet above the valley floor but in a mere 20 minute downpour the moorland dumped four feet of water into neighbours basements whilst I considered myself fortunate to get away with only a couple of inches. And this is *summer*?

In a 40m QSO with G4RNB, I learned - before he faded to zero - that Ron, G0VTN, having read of my encounter with the tarmac attempted to emulate the same ballet style moves (difficult when supported with a pair of sticks) only to find himself in hospital with a busted hip. At the time of writing, I have good reports of progress from his better half who tells me he no longer resembles a plumbers nightmare and has been shifted to a non-critical ward. Judging from her description of the pins, screws and other hardware which now share his pelvic area, he could be self resonant on one of the HF bands. Even though present band conditions mean that I will not be able to insult him on the same regular basis as before, I very much look forward to hearing him again.

A complimentary CD from Picnic Publishing in JA arrived which was choc full of jpeg files showing all manner of keys and paddles. Included was a range of kit from G4ZPY though a phone call from Gordon indicated that he was very much QRL with a significant back-log of orders and that indifferent health has restricted the time available to build. They also kindly included a brief run-down of FISTS and in particular, FISTS E.A.

Sorry that I have to be the bearer of bad tidings but a phone call from Geoff's daughter told me that G4DNC had suffered a severe stroke and at her request, he has been removed from the active list. According to records, Geoff was born in 1920 and at such an age, a stroke of any severity is more than enough to handle.

18MHz was perhaps the best I have heard it so far this year and I collected a small bunch of JA calls on the mag loop. The bad news is that none of 'em were FISTS but I keep trying.

Chuck (M0AVW) was obliged to wheel his computer to an expert for the second time in 12 months. Same problem I fear - someone dumped a virus on him which brings to mind one of our members (GW3SB) who reviewed his phone bill and found entries of £20.00 to a premium number (the virus activated his modem when he logged on to the web). He arranged with BT to block any calls to such numbers and tells me that one poor soul he knows lost £1500.00 with the same virus. Be warned. BT does not have a sympathetic ear. Also BT's ISP (btinternet) lacks an intelligent approach to consolidating information. In June, fearing a possible fraud, I asked my credit card company to change my number. In July BT-Yahoo warned me that my account had become overdue. I gave 'em my new number and everything was fine - until August that is when my account was closed without warning. I phoned their 08nn number pdq and "Your account is overdue" said the man (in Delhi judging by the accent). The regime insists that the right hand must *never* know what the left hand is doing so it took all of 8 hours and numerous telephone calls before I was able to collect/despach my email. BT's fault service surpassed itself when two lads were removing the offending Ivy and successfully removed the phone cable from my gable end. My son-in-law reported it to faults who said that they had tested it and there was "nothing at all wrong with it". We knew there was nothing wrong up to the point of entry and it took a further 3 hours in a queue to convince them that there was no telephone line connected to the house. They eventually fixed it *five days later*. Whaddya mean I'm a BT cynic? Grrrrr! Sure you all know that feeling that getting out of bed in the first place was a bad idea - trouble is that you can hardly stay in bed for a whole month.

For information, I have not had any response at all to the "for sale" item (filters) of last month so they are still awaiting a new home.

## ANOTHER CHANGE OF CALL

Arthur M3BDU, has upgraded and his call is now 2E0BDU.

## CHANGE OF CALL

M3WSZ Alan may now be recognised as 2E0MZX having recently obtained an intermediate ticket.

## SCAG JUBILEE AWARDS

SCAG, the Scandinavian CW Activity Group, is celebrating its 30th anniversary with a new board, a new drive for membership and two special CW awards for 2004.

SCAG 30. Work 30 points in 2004 by working the eight special Swedish SC-calls, SC0AG-SC7AG (5 points per QSO), and/or SCAG members (2 Points per QSO). The same station can be worked on different bands. A list of SCAG members can be found on the SCAG website, [www.scag.se](http://www.scag.se) Cost of award, US\$4, 3 IRC, or 3 Euro.

SCAG 30 ON 30. Work 30 different DXCC countries/entities on the 30m band (10.1 MHz). This award is free of charge. Closing date for applications for both awards 28th February 2005.

The awards manager is OZ5RM. The QSL manager for all SC-calls is SM6CTQ. Further information is available on the SCAG website.

Thanks to Tony G4FAI for the info.

## F5NQL

The first QSL card received for CW contacts with Vincent FO5RN arrived this morning. It was a FISTS card from Gary K7ZAD.

I ask Gary (and others) to be patient as the cards are currently being designed in Papeete whilst the printer IK1PML is expected to deliver them to my by mid October for the Ham expo in Auxerre. Vincent will be active each morning around 0330 utc. Look for him CW on 20m.

By error it was wrote a wrong date in our last message, about the staying of Christophe, F4DZY, as TK/F4DZY in Corsica. Christophe will be TK/F4DZY, from the 8th to the 22nd of September.

From France :

The annual meeting of the French DX Club, "The Clipperton DX Club" (-CDXC-), will be held in Malataverne, (South of Lyon, SE of France), the 18th of September.

The morning meeting will continue in the afternoon with numerous DXpédition reports and films projections as T33C Banaba, TO4E / TO4WW, Europa 2003, 5V7C Togo, Mexican Islands and IOTA., wil follow.

The usual "Doctorate of DX" examination and the Pile up CW

## OZZIES CHASING FIVE TON

Australian amateurs plan to stake a claim on the international distress frequency of 500KHz (popularly known as five ton) which will probably be abandoned by China - its only remaining user - in 2005. 500 kHz has been instrumental in saving tens of thousands of lives in the last 100-odd years. It is thus fitting that the frequency be preserved as a 'spectrum national park' to commemorate those who made the supreme sacrifice in its use.

The best way to do this is to establish a small slice of spectrum around 500 kHz - probably 495 to 510 kHz - as an amateur radio band. The band would also provide a unique opportunity for experimentation with antennas, propagation, advanced narrow band modulation techniques and receiver digital signal processing. A number of US groups have also expressed an interest in the frequency.

## NEW MEMBERS

Not too many this month I fear but we can't expect shed loads every time:

10837 SV1JSB	Andreas	10838 ON6CN	Carlos
10839 ON7JA	Jan	10840 G0CPZ	Bruce
10841 2E0AFP	Bob		

## G0JLX

From our webmaster:

*It is with great sadness that I have to announce the death of my father, who although not an Amateur, was a first class radio telegraphist with the Royal Signals 1939-1945 and POW in Thailand's Chang Mai, who was forced to work on the infamous Railway of Death and the real Bridge over the River Quai.*

*And even at 80, he could still send and receive CW with the greatest of ease and smoothness.*

*Eric Horace Digby, 23 July 1921 - 4th August 2004. Silent Key.*

*73's Andy Digby, G0 JLX FISTS 358.*

## OH2 BEACON REACTIVATED

Finland's OH2B beacon is back on the air after an absense of two years.

OH2B is one of the eighteen stations in the world-wide five-band International Beacon Project network. It has already been heard in the UK on 14.100, 18.110, 21.150, 24.930 and 28.200 Mhz. (GB2RS)

## WI-FI VERSUS BPL

*Spokane, Washington in company with other US towns and cities has opted for Wi-Fi over B-P-L. This as that city inaugurates a wireless Internet access system covering 100 blocks of downtown Spokane.*

*The wireless zone uses new technology that allows Internet signals to be transmitted more than a mile. This is far beyond the traditional 200- to 300-foot range of previous Wi-Fi systems.*

*The Wi-Fi area is divided into a private network for use by the city and an open network for the public. Public users can connect for two hours a day at no charge, and subscription plans are in the works for extended use.*

In fact, a couple of amateurs in the US recently established a record of over 500Km for a wi-fi contact and with these sort of ranges, BPL begins to look less and less favourable especially given the interference it can cause to HF broadcasts and even VHF FM. We wait to see.

Report from Amateur Radio Newslines.



## THE STRAWBERRY BASKET

**6Y5WJ.** Josh had rather special visitors recently in the form of his Daughter and hubby on honeymoon.

**MOBHE.** Malcolm is getting a wee bit fed up of with a few poorly trained people "since they started giving HF licences away" and fears that we are rapidly approaching the status of Citizens Band. Not as noticeable on CW he confesses except when one of them ignores the band plans and swamps QRP CW with QRO SSB. Guess we have always had our 'idiots' Malcolm but the relaxation has certainly not helped. We can only keep our fingers crossed and hope they learn.

**G3VUN.** Thank you for your obs Gloria and yes I could have made a better choice of word here. Forgotten the source of the information now but it was I am sure widely distributed before it arrived on my desk. By the way, your copy of this letter to G4YLB never reached him... the magic word FISTS on the envelope caused the local sorting office to redirect it here. Must be earning some sort of notoriety with the blue clad guys. Hi.

**G0HYT.** Due to his wife's poor state of health, Patrick has been virtually QRT for the past couple of years but is now making time to be more active on HF. Spending some time with a Datong tutor in an effort to regain his 15-18 wpm reading speed. Shouldn't be too difficult Patrick.. rather like riding a bike - you never forget how to fall off!

**G0FVS.** Jim follows up on his book outlining his service in RAF "The Blue Uniform" with an appropriately titled "The Trilby Hat" detailing life after demob. He still signs himself Peter Jackson on the cover which did cause some confusion in his previous book. I understand he is hunting for an ordnance survey (1900) of Colwick Loco - the loco works near Netherfield - to aid his recollections. Does this appear in any member's archives I wonder? "Do you know your neighbour" is really a tribute to Cmdr Andrew Clark ISM, DSM MBE treated discourteously by the locals as being someone with a wandering mind, he was an official photographer at Hiroshima; haunted by memories of what he saw there.

**G3CWW.** Tony's alternative passion is working in wood and with a garage full of timber collected over many years, a period of non-activity was largely due to re-vamping his shack. He anticipates being QRV again this month. "The work gets harder as the years pass but I am still enjoying it".

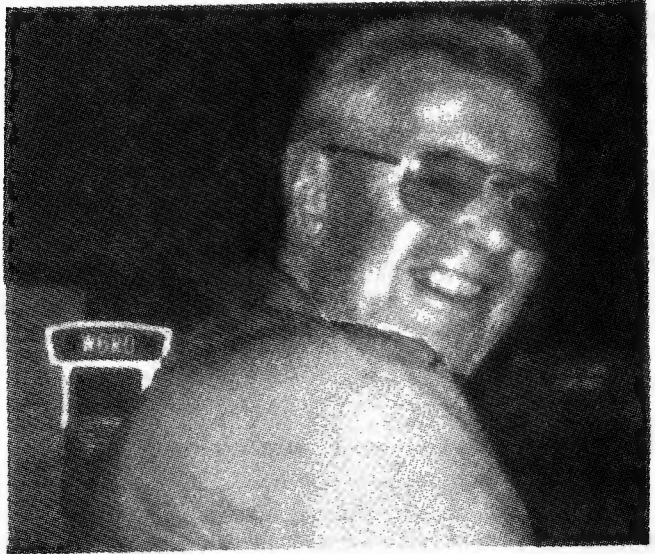
**M0CHQ.** Together with Les G3VQO, Mark has been taking part RSGB 80m CC with 220 points so far (largely down to Les he confesses) in the name of FISTS.

**I2VRF.** It was a disappointment when Gian resigned. This was because his condition was not improving and he found himself lying in bed with no prospect of ever being able to leave it. Since then however his situation has improved and he is able to operate after a fashion albeit with something like 4m of twin twist paddles and rig. The chief drawback is that he must rely on his wife to tune the rig. It is hoped that this situation can be improved since the rig is some 4m distant and although his wife is able to tune the ICOM per frequencies fixed in memory the Drake is a different matter. He was encouraged by the cards with messages of goodwill from many friends and members. We all hope your recovery continues Gian and of course it is great to welcome you back aboard..

**G3WP.** Jack has recently spent 10 days in hospital due to pneumonia. Still not back to his normal self but improving steadily. Odd thought... I remember as a child creating

hysteria when pneumonia was mentioned and asking if there was any difference between that and old monia. Young and innocent, the question was not contrived.

**G3LPS.** Our Eric has recently returned from a 3 weeks holiday in the US built round an East to West coast rail trip which included a couple of nights aboard the RMS Queen Mary. Among the volunteers operating the station and showing visitors around are two members of the QM radio club (W6RO) both FISTS members. One was Jack WA6LOH though he is unsure of the callsign of the other.



## G3LPS IN R/O (QUEEN MARY)

### SOMALIA GIVES HAM RADIO INCREASED POWER LIMITS

This item was forwarded by a regular US watchdog WB2FXK and I found it so difficult to believe that I just had to share it: *And finally this week, the ARRL Board Meeting was not the only place where things where ham radio changes were happening last week. Another was the nation of Somalia which has acted to grant its ham radio population a power increase to 3 kilowatts. Thats right. We said 3000 Watts and thats 3000 P-E-P for SSB and 3000 watts average for other modes. Somalia is also letting hams use of the 88 to 108 Mhz band for FM and permitting Amateur Television broadcasts to be conducted on any unoccupied standard VHF or UHF television channel. WIA newscaster Graham Kemp, VK4BB, has more:*

*Yes the Ministry of Information, Telecommunication and Culture in Somalia has made these changes and more as part of action to implement the W-R-C 2003 accords.*

*And the Ministry has also made additional frequency allocations for amateur radio experimenters in Somalia. Radio Amateurs in that nation can operate on additional bands including Zero to 9 Kilohertz, from 70 to 90 Kilohertz and 130 to 190 Kilohertz. On Medium Wave, frequencies include 495 to 526 Kilohertz, while on the High Frequencies the hams of Somalia*

*get 5.060 to 5.450 MHz and 26.100 to 29.700 MHz excluding 27.995 the sliver band from to 27.999.*

*This Ministry is promoting Somalia as the best holiday and*

*research destination for visiting radio amateurs. This, as a way of attracting skilled people to help the local Somali people become ham radio operators. Abdikariim Ali Sulatn in Puntland State Somalia confirmed again that Aussie Amateur Sam Voron, 6OA, will continue to conduct ham radio license qualifying courses and issue amateur radio licenses free of charge "in the name of this Ministry" until a national Somali Amateur Radio Society is formed.*

*And, oh yes. If you are planning to go there, a Somali Visitors Amateur Radio License is now issued to any class of overseas amateur radio license holder as a courtesy. It is free of charge and issued for life unless cancelled by the Somali Government. Talk about an inducement to visit a far off land.*

*According to a Somali spokesman, as of now, no other country provides radio amateurs with more frequencies or a higher transmitter power output. He added that Somalia welcomes visiting radio amateurs from throughout the world. (WIA News)*

### **MYSTERIES OF MODERN TECHNOLOGY**

The new office temp was a sweet young thing - all curves and eyelashes and much admired by the male members of the office staff.

When the manager found her in tears he attempted to play the knight in shining armour. "Good heavens Miss Fenner - what ever is wrong".

"It's this fax machine she said. I was told to send this document but it doesn't seem to be working"

The manager asked her to go through the routine so he could perhaps see what she was doing wrong.

First she put the document on the input tray and then dialled the number. The input rollers gathered up the document and delivered it into the out tray.

"That's perfect" said the manager.

"No it's not" blubbered the temp; "Look.... it's still there".

### **GM0NTR**

There could be problems contacting Jim, GM0NTR since he is not QRV on the net. Having met up with him recently at a mobile setup for the lighthouses weekend, she offers to act as contact with her own email address. She is off to Rhodes for a few weeks however so will be unavailable until 21 October. Meanwhile you still have Jim's address as before.

*Hi George, thanks for that. Details as follows: Icom IC703 complete with CW filter. The rig is in mint condition with over 4 years extended warranty transferable. First offer of £500 with transport etc. arranged. Contact Jim, GM0NTR, 17b High St., Oban, PA34 4BG or gm0erv@dsl.pipex.com Oct. 21st or after. Thanks again, 73/88 Shirley GM0ERV.*

Sounds like quite a nice deal and surely worth a stamp.

### **FINALE**

Cor! It's another bank holiday. Never mind, it may give me a little more time to get on the bands since there will be an extra day with no mail. Trouble is I shop on Mondays and Thursdays (the latter being the day I do whatever business is necessary at the post office) so tomorrow I shall have to buy in an extra four days of food. If they must have 'em then why can't they make it Tuesday instead?

G3LPS enlarges a little on his recent trip and subsequent 2-night stay the "Hotel Queen Mary" at Long Beach. It easily equates with a 4 or 5 star hotel, roomy 'cabins' and two excellent restaurants. He missed out on what could have been the most exciting part of the rail journey however due to line work being undertaken on the final leg. For this most fascinating section of the line, buses replaced the comforts of the rail carriages though he still made me very envious.

Sorry.. I am stuck for time again since I need to get this one into the hands of the printer for thursday or the aforementioned bank holiday may well mean an unwelcome delay.

Hope to meet up with some of you over the weekend.

73/88 people have fun and stay sober. Geo

NOTE: Please contact Nancy (nancy@tir.com) to find out the amount of postage necessary to ship items to Canada and other non-USA addresses, or large USA shirt orders (lower postage on quantity shirt orders)  
You may order using Paypal. The email address to use for Paypal is fists@tir.com. Do NOT use nancy@tir.com. In the "comments" box of the Paypal form, please be specific about what you are ordering, since this info will be used to fill your order. To order by mail, send your order (don't forget to include what color tshirt you want, and the size!) to:  
Nancy Kott, PO Box 47, Hadley MI 48440

This is a limited time opportunity. When the shirts are gone - they're GONE, so get yours now!

**HOW DO I GET/SEND FISTS QSL CARDS Via BURO?** Keep SASEs in stock with the FISTS QSL Bureau. Stan Reas K4UK runs the Bureau. Send envelopes to 1020 Long Island Drive Moneta, Va 24121

**HOW DO I IMPROVE MY CODE SPEED and MEET LOTS OF NEW FRIENDS?** Join FISTS! Get involved in the nets and activities! Volunteer to be a Code Buddy! Write an article for the Keynote about your interests!

**HOW DO I GET/SEND FISTS QSL CARDS Via BURO?** Keep SASEs in stock with the FISTS QSL Bureau. Stan Reas K4UK runs the Bureau. Send envelopes to 1020 Long Island Drive Moneta, Va 24121

**HOW DO I SEND APPLICATION OR SAMPLE NEWSLETTER TO A FRIEND?** For a brochure, email Joe W5OS with their name, call sign, and postal address. For a sample Keynote, please send \$1 to defray postage. SASEs are appreciated. Joe's postal address is Joe Pardue, 29 Melrose Dr, Marrero LA, 70072. An application is available for downloading, in text format, on this web page.

**HOW DO I SEND FISTS INFO TO A DX FISTS?** DX FISTS have a separate block of numbers; their Keynote is mailed from the UK. Send their info to Geo Longden, G3ZQS at 119 Cemetery Rd, Darwin Lancs, BB32LZ; he will get in touch with them and send them a DX application.

**PAY FOR THE SUBSCRIPTION OF A DX FISTS MEMBER?** Subs for European FISTS, paid from the USA, are \$10/year American Cash. Non-European (Africa, Japan, etc.) FISTS are \$15/year in US CASH. No International Money Orders, postal money orders or personal checks, cash only. Send it to Geo Longden, 119 Cemetery Rd, Darwin Lancs BB3 2LZ U.K. CASH ONLY. Don't forget to include the name and address of the DX ham you want to sponsor. They will receive the DX version of the Keynote, which is written and mailed by Geo.

**APPLY FOR AN OPERATING AWARD?** Dennis Franklin K6DF is the Awards Manager. We have many different operating awards. Details are on our web page or in the Keynotes. Dennis's contact information is fistsawards@comcast.net or 4658 Capitan Drive Fremont, CA 94536-5448

**HOW DO I OPERATE KN0WCW?** KN0WCW is the USA FISTS Callsign. Members in good standing (meaning, paid up dues) can operate KN0WCW from their home station after getting PERMISSION. To get permission, contact Dennis Franklin K6DF at fistsawards@comcast.net or 4658 Capitan Drive Fremont, CA 94536-5448 A schedule of operators can be found on the FISTS Web page. Remember, when you're using KN0WCW, you're flying the flag for FISTS, so please operate responsibly.

**HOW DO I VOLUNTEER FOR or GET A CODE BUDDY?** W3GR, The Historical Electronics Museum Amateur Radio Club members are the volunteers handling the Code Buddy Program. Contact them at Box 746 MS 4015, Baltimore, MD 21203 or Email W3GR@arrl.net. We need ELMERS, please volunteer to be a Code Buddy!! You don't have to be a speed demon to be a Code Buddy, lots of people just want someone to practice with, just like YOU! Code Buddy applications are available on line or from W3GR.

**HOW DO I GET MY PHOTO ON THE PHOTO PAGES?** Send a snapshot of yourself with your face about the size of a quarter to Ken W8ROG 44609 N. Bunker Hill Dr., Clinton Twp, MI 48038.

**HOW DO I RECEIVE THE KEYNOTE ON TAPE?** The keynote is available on tape, free, to legally blind members. Contact Ken Kott, W8ROG, 44609 N. Bunker Hill Dr., Clinton Twp, MI 48038. The tapes are read by Roger Cameron, N8KV and copied and distributed by Ken.

**HOW DO I GET A COPY OF FISTS PRESENTATION** to give at my local club meeting?

It's easy and fun! We send you everything you need for a snazzy 15-20 minute presentation. Contact Joe Spencer, KK5NA, 3618 Montridge Ct, Arlington TX 76016.

**HOW DO I SUGGEST IDEAS FOR THE WEB PAGE?** Contact Bill KK4KF at kk4kf@cox.net

**HOW DO I ORDER FISTS CLUB QSL CARDS?** Club cards are available from CheapQSLs.com <http://cheapqsls.com/fists.htm>

**HOW DO I ORDER A FISTS CLUB ID BADGE?** Our club badge is dark blue, with FISTS logo in gold and your name, FISTS number, callsign, and "Int'l Morse Preservation Society" in white. They are \$8.20 postpaid from The Sign man of Baton Rouge, 879 Castle Kirk Dr., Baton Rouge, LA 70808. He also has coffee mugs and logo hats. [www.thesignman.com/clubs/fists.html](http://www.thesignman.com/clubs/fists.html)

The Keynote/North American Memo is published approximately 10 issues per year by Nancy Kott WZ8C for FISTS CW Club members. All information in the newsletter may be reprinted by non-profit organizations and ham clubs. Your comments, letters, and articles are welcome. Send them to Nancy WZ8C, PO Box 47, Hadley MI 48440. The newsletter is made from your submissions, so send them in - I can't do the Keynote without you - this is YOUR newsletter.

*Don't forget!*

*Send in your Fall Sprint logs!*

*Logs go to Sprint Manager:*

**DAN N8IE**

*Logs are accepted for 30 days after the  
end of the Sprint, which means you have  
to have it postmarked or emailed by*

*November 9.*

**THE SPRINT is OCTOBER 9TH 1700Z - 2100Z**

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FISTS CW CLUB

PO Box 47, Hadley MI 48440

email: [nancy@tir.com](mailto:nancy@tir.com) web page: <http://www.fists.org>

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